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## Senior Design Strategist - Design Thinking and Innovation

The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory Laurel, MD 1 month ago 44 applicants



Full-time · Associate



5,001-10,000 employees · Defense and Space Manufacturing



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### About the job

#### Description

Does working with teams to seek difficult challenges and rapidly deliver human-centered solutions energize you?

Do you have a deep knowledge of design thinking and innovation methods, but always work to improve on your process?

Are you motivated by delivering high-impact products and valuable experiences that solve people-focused needs?

If so, we're looking for someone like you to join our team at APL!

We are seeking a Senior Design and Innovation Strategist to support and lead cross-functional teams in the discovery, design, development, and delivery of amazing solutions for sophisticated problems in strategy, process improvement, product design, and service delivery. You will become a core part of APL's Design Thinking Group and work with talented teammates to define all aspects of end-to-end experience and product design. You will have the opportunity to be an advocate and coach for design thinking, helping others in the organization develop their knowledge and experience in a range of different methods.



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demonstrated success in ownership, bias for action, and thinking big. We are looking for a candidate that has experience using design thinking to discover and deliver solutions and is a leader with a vision in the application of human-centered design to gnarly challenges!

Using your experience and knowledge in human-centered design methods, you will help create innovative solutions from opportunity through concept generation, concept development, and solution landscaping. We would love for you to have experience in identifying and using emerging trends and can integrate that with experience in futuring, future casting, and storytelling as a means to deliver compelling and novel concepts.

You'll be joining our diverse team of problem solvers that employ design and systems thinking to conceptualize and develop high-impact, creative concepts. We believe that authentic connections, intellectual humility, and curiosity deliver the most powerful solutions, and we're relentlessly focused on the human at the center of every challenge.

#### **As a Senior Design and Innovation Strategist, you will...**

- Be a vital member of a Design Thinking group, leading cross-functional teams to develop crucial concepts for our customers and advancing the overall quality and understanding of the design thinking process across the organization.
- Constantly use your talent to identify insightful opportunities from ethnographic research to create meaningful concepts from that synthesis.
- Connect the dots between various user groups, workflows, emerging tech trends and turn them into simple, easy to understand and impactful outcomes.
- Look for opportunities to solve problems in unusual and innovative ways.
- Distill complicated problems into simple and sophisticated solutions.
- Mentor, lead, and inspire engineers and designers to achieve outstanding work and innovative product ideas based on research and insights.
- Demonstrate self-motivation and an ability to balance great design while meeting short timelines.
- Always be looking to refine your processes and designs through feedback and through a forward understanding of design and technology trends and best practices.
- Use generative, collaborative methods to establish a diversity of design decisions and scenarios.
- Use 'sketches&rdquo (rough visuals and/or whiteboarding) to communicate ideas, maps, and flows.
- Explore new ways to create compelling pitches, stories, presentations, and workshops that demonstrate context and solutions for teammates and sponsors alike.
- Develop interactive code or no-code prototypes for a variety of devices, systems, and products.
- Demonstrate a keen understanding of visual design principles, user research insights, and how to synthesize outputs to effectively craft products and experiences.

#### **Qualifications**

##### **You meet our minimum qualifications for the job if you have:**

- BA/BFA/BS or MA/MS in a relevant field, including Interactive, Visual, or Product Design Human Factors Psychology Cognitive Science, engineering or equivalent job experience in the field.
- Expertise in design and systemic thinking and strong knowledge of interaction design principles and methodology.
- 5+ years of experience in human-centered design, design thinking, experience design, innovation strategy, product design, or a related field .



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- Experience planning, conducting, and communicating the findings from user research to a diverse group of sponsors.
- Demonstrated experience planning and conducting both quantitative and qualitative user research at all stages of the process.
- Are able to obtain a Secret level security clearance. If selected, you will be subject to a government security clearance investigation and must meet the requirements for access to classified information. Eligibility requirements include U.S. citizenship.
- Willingness to travel up to 20%. Locations are TBD but would be Naval Bases, Research Locations, and meetings including but not limited to San Diego, Hawaii, Norfolk, Groton, and San Francisco.
- Can demonstrate that you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. To ensure the safety and well-being of the community, APL has established a policy requiring that all staff be vaccinated against COVID-19. All staff members must provide proof of full vaccination or have an approved medical or religious accommodation by their start date.

**You'll go above and beyond our minimum requirements if you have:**

- Experience in the US Navy, US Military, Department of Defense, the federal government, federal government consulting, or equivalent.
- Familiarity with leading collaboration methodologies from industry (e.g. Google Sprint, LUMA, etc.)
- Product or Project management experience and/or credentials.
- A strong design portfolio that you can share with us.
- An active Secret security clearance or above.
- Experience with Agile and other software development methodologies.
- Experience in writing and storytelling, especially in the science fiction genre

**Why work at APL?**

The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) brings world-class expertise to our nation's most critical defense, security, space and science challenges. With a wide selection of challenging, impactful work and a robust education assistance program, APL promotes a culture of life-long learning. Our employees enjoy generous benefits and healthy work/life balance. APL's campus is located in the Baltimore-Washington metro area. Learn more about our career opportunities at [www.jhuapl.edu/careers](http://www.jhuapl.edu/careers).

APL is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, disability status, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law.

We will ensure that individuals with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodation to participate in the job application or interview process, to perform essential job functions, and to receive other benefits and privileges of employment. Please contact us to request accommodation.

**About Us**

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